Best Available Copy

6

Patent claims

1. Soil compacting device having a lower mass (1) that comprises a compacting plate (2), an upper mass (4) connected with the lower mass (1) via a spring damping device (3), a vibration generator (6) that loads the compacting plate (2), and an undercarriage (7) having one or more roller elements (9) situated in rotatable fashion on an undercarriage axle (8) for the transport of the device,

characterized in that

5

5

10

5

the undercarriage axle (8) is stationary in relation to the device.

- 2. Soil compacting device as recited in Claim 1, characterized in that the undercarriage (7) is attached to the lower mass (1).
- 3. Soil compacting device as recited in Claim 2,

characterized in that for a given roller element diameter the axial position of the undercarriage axle (8) is selected in such a way that

- in a vibrating position, the compacting plate (2) makes flat contact with the soil and the roller elements (9) do not touch the soil,
- in a transport position, the compacting plate (2) does not touch the soil, but the roller elements (9) touch the soil and bear the weight of the device,
- a changeover between the two positions being possible by tipping the overall device about an axis that corresponds essentially to the undercarriage axle (8).

- 4. Soil compacting device as recited in Claim 3,
- characterized in that the axial position of the undercarriage axle (8) and the size of the roller elements (9) are selected such that
- in the vibrating position, there is a distance (a) between a soil contact surface of the compacting plate (2) and the lowest point of the roller elements (9), and
- a distance (b) results by which, in the transport position, the roller elements (9) extend past {00069246.DOC/}

what is then the lowest point of the compacting plate (2).

- 5. Soil compacting device as recited in one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the undercarriage axle (8) is situated above the compacting plate (2).
- 6. Soil compacting device as recited in one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the roller elements (9) have an intentional imbalance (11).
- 7. Soil compacting device as recited in one of Claims 3 to 6, characterized in that a step surface (12) is laterally present on the upper mass (4) for the supporting of a moment required for the change of positions.